

Message Text

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ISLAMABAD LONDON MADRAS JUL 27, 1978

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TAGS: MNUC, TECH, US, IN, IAEA

SUBJECT: INDIAN PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
SAFEGUARDS

REFERENCE: NEW DELHI 10869 REPEATED VIENNA AS STATE 183342

1. I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF AMBASSADOR
GOHEEN'S POINT (REFTEL) THAT ANY INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
ON SAFEGUARDS SET UP AT INDIAN SUGGESTION SHOULD NOT RPT
NOT UNDERCUT THE IAEA OR LEAD TO SOME SEPARATE, NEW
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MONITORING SYSTEM. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US HERE TO SEE
HOW THE CREATION OF A COMMITTEE OF THIS KIND CAN AVOID
HAVING THE FORMER EFFECT, AT LEAST TO SOME EXTENT.

2. IAEA'S GREATEST STRENGTH IS ITS MONOPOLY
POSITION--STATES HAVE TO ACCEPT IAEA SAFEGUARDS, AND
IN MANY CASES FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS, IF THEY ARE TO

OBTAIN CERTAIN NUCLEAR SERVICES. CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE OF THIS KIND COULD NOT HELP BUT BE SEEN BY MANY AS A FIRST STEP TOWARD AVOIDING BEING SUBJECTED TO THE AGENCY'S SAFEGUARDS REGIME.

3. NOR COULD IT BE ARGUED THAT A COMMITTEE OF SCIENTISTS WOULD FILL A GAP IN THE IAEA'S MACHINERY--THE AGENCY HAS A SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND A STANDING ADVISORY GROUP ON SAFEGUARDS IMPLEMENTATION, BOTH OF WHICH CONTAIN A NUMBER OF DISTINGUISHED SCIENTISTS (INCLUDING INDIANS) AND MEET REGULARLY.

4. OBVIOUSLY, TO THE EXTENT THE COMMITTEE'S WORK WERE DIRECTED TO "UNIVERSALIZED SOLUTIONS' AND ONE THAT WILL NOT REQUIRE USE OF THE 'HATED PHRASE, FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS'," IT WOULD CUT AT THE VERY HEART OF THE AGENCY'S WORLDWIDE SAFEGUARDS REGIME, WHICH THE US HAS WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD. INDEED, UNLESS THE COMMITTEE CAME OUT WITH UNANIMOUS ENDORSEMENT OF EFFECTIVE IAEA SAFEGUARDS--WHICH, GIVEN THE PROPOSED COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP, SEEMS UNLIKELY--IAEA SAFEGUARDS WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

5. FROM THE VIENNA PERSPECTIVE, THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER IF THE INDIAN IDEA DID NOT RPT NOT MATERIALIZE. WE ALSO WONDER ABOUT ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH INFCE AND ITS POTENTIAL FOR DELAYING WIDER
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APPLICATION OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS IN INDIA PENDING THE RESULTS OF ITS DELIBERATIONS.

6. IF IT IS NEVERTHELESS CONSIDERED IMPERATIVE FOR THE US TO COOPERATE WITH INDIA'S PROPOSAL, WE WOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO MINIMIZE ITS ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE IAEA BY STEERING IT AWAY FROM IAEA SAFEGUARDS--FOR EXAMPLE, BY HAVING IT FOCUS ON SOME POST-INFCE ACTIVITY RELATED TO NON-PROLIFERATION OR CONTRIBUTE IN SOME OTHER WAY TO THE CONSENSUS-BUILDING EFFORTS WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE EMERGING FROM INFCE. ALTERNATIVELY, WE URGE ASSOCIATING THE IAEA WITH THE ENDEAVOR AT AN EARLY STAGE AND TO THE MAXIMUM FEASIBLE EXTENT, FOR INSTANCE: HAVING THE AGENCY INFORMED ABOUT IT (PRESUMABLY BY THE INDIANS); HAVING THE COMMITTEE CALL ON AGENCY EXPERTS TO HELP IN ITS WORK; PERHAPS HAVING THE SENIOR AGENCY SAFEGUARDS OFFICIAL SIT ON THE COMMITTEE; OR EVEN HAVING THE AGENCY SERVE AS SECRETARIAT FOR THE COMMITTEE.

7. THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY NEW DELHI WILL HAVE TO JUDGE THE WISDOM OF SUPPORTING THE INDIAN IDEA AND THE FEASIBILITY OF THESE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES. I WOULD ONLY

REPEAT ONCE MORE MY CONVICTION THAT THE PROPOSED COMMITTEE WILL NOT BE HELPFUL TO THE IAEA SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM AND THAT, IF THE COMMITTEE IS TO BE FORMED, VIGOROUS AND IMAGINATIVE STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE. KIRK
UNQUOTE VANCE

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